

**LAGO EMPLOYEES POSTPONE ULTIMATUM ORANJESTAD—**

An IOWUA delegation met with the Minister of Finance Gilbert de Paula Monday to discuss the problem which arose in connection with the 39 percent income tax deduction imposed by the Central government on the money which the Lago employees will receive from Lago. The delegation said that Mr. de Paula showed understanding for the problem and said that study the matter and see if a solution is possible. He promised that the delegation will get a reply from his within a week.

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volume:36 Ad Astra Per Aspera

THURSDAY MARCH 14, 1985

# RIOT POLICE TEAR GAS TO DISPERSE DEMONSTRATORS

**ORANJESTAD—**

A strike called by the SIMAR, GABA and SEPA unions went into effect midnight Sunday. The three unions representing some 3000 public servants including teachers called a work stoppage for an indefinite period following failure of their talks with the government to revoke its decision to cut the salary of civil servants by ten percent. The unions submitted a list of alternatives to the government which they claim would suffice the reduction of their salary. They include: reducing the island government from six to four deputies, reduction of annual compensation for government leaders to attend island council meetings, reduction of the government leaders representation costs and travel expenses, elimination of five-twelfths of employees vacation pay, downgrading payment of overtime hours in free days, reduction of the time street lights are on, and recuperating 15.6 million of the total of 62.6 million of arrear taxes now owed the government. The government said that the alternatives were good ones but stated that it would revoke the decision only after negotiations on the alternatives with the unions. This was unacceptable to the unions. Monday night



the government mediator Mr. Eddy Maduro proposed the government postpone its decision for a month during which time the union and the government could negotiate. The unions accepted but the government rejected the idea. The strike which was somewhat mild Monday came to head Tuesday when an estimated crowd of about 500 angry union members demonstrated for a half-day in front of the government office. The demonstration followed the presentation of a signature list by the representatives of the workers

to Lt. Governor Pedro Bislip for the government to revoke the salary cut measure at 10.30 a.m. When the government informed them to first call off the strike, then they would listen to the labor representatives ideas, the demonstrating ensued. By 2.30 p.m. Police told the demonstrators they had order from the Lt. Governor to disperse the demonstration and would do that using all means at their disposal. The strikers however, remained in front of the government offices and began singing the Aruba national an-

them. Riot police was called in. They used tear gas canisters which they laid on the ground in front of them and the wind did the rest to disperse the strikers without the police having to manhandle them. By 3.30 p.m. the premises in front of the government offices was completely abandoned. According to reports Wednesday morning other unions on the island expressed their solidarity for the striking unions and indications were that the strike would escalate if there were no results in the negotiations.

## SOVIET PRESIDENT DEAD AT 73

MOSCOW— President Konstantin Chernenko of the United Soviet Socialist Republic died on Sunday March 10 after a grave illness at the age of 73. Chernenko was born in Siberia on September 24, 1911. He became the secretary General of the Communist Party following the death of Presi-

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EDITOR'S CORNER

**A COMPLICATED SITUATION**

When the government of a country is in financial difficulties austerity measures are unavoidable. But as is often the case, the reason and the manner of imposing those measures makes a lot of difference. For instance, the decision of the government to impose a 10 percent cut on the salary of its employees without previously discussing the matter with the unions which represent the majority of those employees, and refusing to negotiate even when the unions requested to do so, is indeed questionable, and smacks of a dictatorship. This take it or leave it attitude of the government makes matters worse than they already are. The irony of the situation is that the government has become the victim of a monster which it created. One of its gravest problems is that it is faced with a civil servant apparatus created by political patronizing. During the past 10 years the number of civil servants increased to more than 3000. New departments, many of them unproductive, were created overnight. Rank and file employees are earning exorbitant salaries envied by employees in the private sector who are doing

the same work. Many government projects are stagnated due to a lack of capable people in the management of certain departments and a lack of incentive. Senior employees in managerial positions are dissatisfied for being bypassed and no longer report their subordinates for negligence or other faults, for fear of reprisals by political godfathers. They claim that favoritism and featherbedding are rampant in the government. It would seem natural for the unions to suggest that the government get rid of this overload of surplus employees, but that would make the situation even more complicated for those employees are also union members. Political opposition claim that the government is reluctant and afraid to solicit and investigation by the International Monetary Fund or by Holland, knowing quite well that such unbiased bodies would order large scale dismissals immediately. A government based on political favoritism lasts as long there are sufficient funds to keep it going, but when those funds become exhausted its collapse is inevitable.

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**Village Talk**



by **WILLY**

Well people could tink on tings. A fella tell Willy dat fo so much years it had guvment wukkers col lectin' money widouk doin' a stroke. But now becausin de guvment dip dey hand in dey money dey bawlin' murder. What ah toim.....

\*\*\*\*\*

A old lady tell Willy dat de calypso say road on fire but it wasn't only road on fire fo' she it was she very bed on fire!

\*\*\*\*\*

A fella say dat de fire mek he see a lotta ting. He say dat dis is the fuss toim he see how ugly some people does be when a fire run dem ouka dey bed early in de mornin'.

\*\*\*\*\*

Anudder fella tell Willy dat God bless Lago. He say ef Lago wasn't dere de whole village wudda burn dong.

\*\*\*\*\*

Willy hear dat only las' week a fella give he Dominicana by soid a color TV fo' she budday an now she lose it in the fire

\*\*\*\*\*

Willy hear dat wid all de fire a fella was still sleepin', is when de water hit he he jump up. Dey say he is a rastaman.

\*\*\*\*\*

A fella tell Willy dat fo' once he was glad dat he was broke becausin ef he had money he wudda tek he clothes dem ouka de laundry. But he say dey was in de Laundry dry so dey scapa.

\*\*\*\*\*

Willy hear dat de joygiols dem wudn' give nobody a chance to get some ah de Wimco burn up tings

\*\*\*\*\*

Well dat is wha' yuh call bad luck. A fella say dat he was loosin' somebody dog to save it from de fire in de village an' de dog bite he.

Professor Jos Kapteyn Believes:

**STATUS APARTE  
WILL BE  
CHAOTIC**

WILLEMSTAD— One of the people most involved in the preparations of status aparte but absolutely not a supporter of it is Professor Jos Kapteyn, president of the coordination commission which has as its task realization of the decisions of the Round Table Conference. In a recent interview with the Dutch daily "De Haagsche Courant" he said that he considers the situation as one of "save what can be saved" "It is evident that one cannot turn back the clock, and that all roads will separate from each other but Kapteyn believes that there will be chaos, certainly now that the economy has collapsed. He does not believe that there will be a sudden emmigration to Holland. Of course there will be, but not in such large numbers that it could be called a calamity. He has the impression that Holland still does not realize the magnitude of the problems of the Antilles. The closure of Lago, deficits which cannot be financed, unemployment, drastic economization (in the case of Aruba) It is difficult to predict the future of Curacao, but even if Shell remains, the standard of living must be modified considerable. Tranquility order and favorable fiscal agreements are the pillars of the extensive service sector of the Antilles, but these are not as dependable as raw material and

fertile land for agriculture. The islands do not want to know anything about independence, but according to Kapteyn this is so mething inevitable on the long run. If that becomes a reality for Aruba in 1996, it can be considered as a historic destiny which will become a reality for the other islands also. Kapteyn believes that it is the fear for that destiny that is the motive for the constant quarreling in the Antilles since the Round Table Conference took place: **The problem in the Antilles**, is that they are always quarreling. The politicians create the impression of fighting in the street. Their image is that **They cannot put their own house in order**, but they are full of demands. When Holland interferes in something, they have the tendency to get mad very quick. But if they throw Holland out of the front door, they take her in through the back door. Finally, the relationship with Holland is their only common bond. The constant quarrels have disgusted Jos Kapteyn. Advice is not being followed, agreements have no value, and instead of clarity the situation is becoming more and more unclear. And you ask yourself what more can a commission like coordination do? said Professor Jos Kapteyn.

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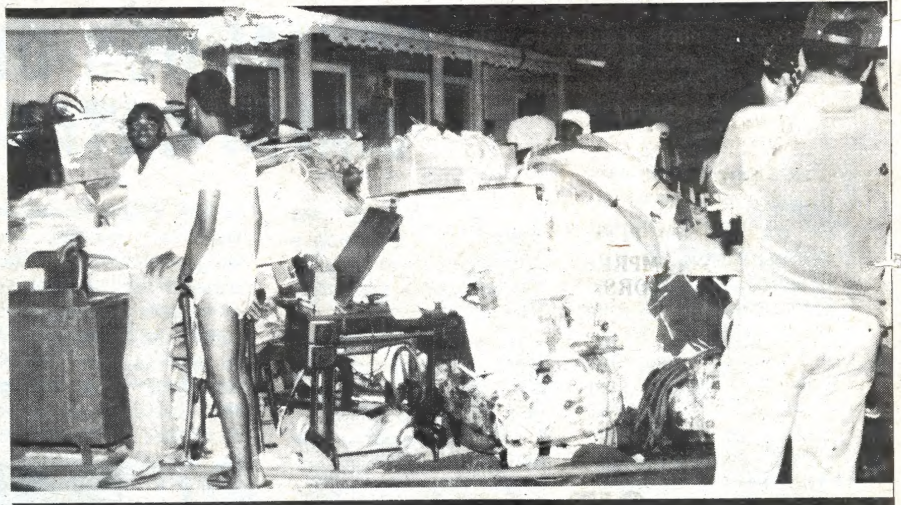
# EIGHT HOUSES DESTROYED BY FIRE IN THE VILLAGE:

Thirteen Families Homeless



**SAN NICOLAS—**  
In less than a week a second fire hit San Nicolas. About 4 a.m. Friday March 8, a fire was reported in the densely populated area of San Nicolas, known as "the village". Despite the rapid arrival of the fire brigade which were later assisted by the Lago Fire department, the fast-spreading fire completely destroyed eight houses, leaving thirteen families homeless. Ma-

ny of the victims lost all of their belongings, and were left with only the clothes they were wearing at the time. According to reports, the fire was lit by a man who had a fight with his girlfriend earlier in the night. A young man identified as A.P., age 25 was later arrested and is being held for questioning while an investigation of the fire continues.



**ORANJESTAD—**Recently two groups of public employees of the Postal Service graduated in two courses organized by the Central Government and the Management of the Postal Service. The graduates from both courses are seen in both pictures with the Minister of Transportation and Communication, Mr. Roland Laçle. They are: Juan Maduro, Maximo Garcia, B. Winklaar, J. E. Rasmijn, J. Vrolijk, R. E. de Kort, E. A. Dirksz, C. R. Boekhoudt, and R. Koolman. Also pictured with the graduates is Mr. R. Galmeyer, acting director of the Postal Service.

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# COMMANDOS DISCOVER MAFIA CATACOMBS

ROME— For the first time in the criminal history of Italy parachutists and commandos, trained in guerilla warfare took part in the battle against organized crime. The militarymen encircled some suspected suburbs of Palermo, the mafia capital, and combed them out. The harvest of this "unique operation", the discovery of the catacombs of the mafia, is spectacular, but still disappointing. All of the great mafia bosses, among the Al Capone of Sicily, Michele Greco, managed to be absent at the time of the raid. Michele Greco is known as the boss of organized crime in Sicily, hence his nickname "the pope". Apparently he is the man to which all the various mafia clans and gangs lead. The authorities could never (or never wanted to) catch him. In 1982 they finally got some hard evidence against him (he organized a

plan to kill a judge) but again he fled. Despite a permanent surveillance by the authorities, since then Greco visited his relatives in Ciaculli, in the periphery of Palermo. Recently the police discovered how that was possible. Under the carpet in the livingroom of Greco's villa and under his shower trap doors were found which led to a net work of underground corridors. Each time that Greco and his cohorts felt themselves threatened by the authorities they disappear underground. The corridors outlets are hundreds of meters from inhabited areas. De mafia not only used the corridors outlets are hundreds of meters from inhabited areas. De mafia not only used the corridor system as an escape route, but also as a secret place for meetings. For that purpose rooms and halls were hewn in the rocks, traitors are condemned and executed the

re and bloodbaths and attacks are planned and drug trafficking and contraband is directed from in those catacombs. Apparently the catacombs were used for many years, therefore it is strange that the police never heard of their existence. It is

not known what caused the police to discover them. Probably the mafia itself revealed the secret hideout. It appears that the catacombs were not frequented much recently, in fact not for meetings. When the police descended into the corridors e-

verthing was abandoned. They had hoped to surprise some of the wanted mafiosi. Since the revelations of the surrendered mafia boss Buscetta last year 217 suspected mafia bosses have disappeared

Cont. on page 12



ORANJESTAD—Among the passengers arriving in Aruba Sunday on a "Wainright" charter flight was the well-known American television personality Tom Casey, better-known as Mr. Weatherman, and his wife Mr. Casey gives a weather report twice daily on television. He first heard about Aruba from his father who lived here during World War II. This year Tom organized a contest supported by the population of the U.S., which was won by no less than five couples. During his stay here Mr. Casey will make several recordings for his show, which undoubtedly will be an enormous publicity for Aruba, due to the magnitude of the program. Mr. Casey (third from left) was met at the airport by Mr. Antonio Leo of the Tourist Bureau and Mr. Añari Lee of the Government Information Service.



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The morning after Lago ...

# A TIME TO SOBER UP BUT NOT TO DESPAIR

Bye,bye,Exxon,hello hardship.The song may sound grim but is nonetheless true.Having the main pillar knocked out from under its economy Aruba faces a host of fi-

nancial and social problems arising from the inevitable loss of income and the just as inevitable steep rise in unemployment.There is no escaping the truth that Lago's

closure implies difficult and hard years ahead.A reality most if not all Arubans are by now keenly aware of(Ar is the Antillian Review magazine) Discussing the island's plight with a number of its businessmen AR was told,however,that there is no need for despair On the contrary,if they are right,Aruba's lean years may well number considerably less than the biblically prescribed figure of seven.Assuming that certain conditions will be met,the group AR sat down with was of the opinion that the island's economy might be back in calm waters within five years.As soon as these conditions can be taken care of by the Arubans themselves,their expectations may be proven right Adapting the islands bud-

get to the declining level of income and at the same time maintaining an atmosphere conducive to tourism are the immediate responsibility of Aruba's politicians and trade unions.They have in fact little choice in this respect.Restoring or maintaining outside confidence in the islands viability,however is a different matter Rebuilding the economy will require substantial investments in particular in the tourism sector.By implication a long-term investment friendly climate must be maintained For this the Arubans will have to introduce some new government ordinances and will also Aruba,AR was told,should be assured of its place in the kingdom for at least another 25 years.The linkage of independence

in 1996 to next year's status aparte therefore should be indone. Such a step it was maintained,would not only make the island more attractive to foreign investors,but would also give recognition to the wishes of almost the entire Aruban population. Investment Tourism,it appears,offers Aruba the best chance of overcoming the blow it was dealt by the departure of Exxon.The quality of its product is by now well known and highly appreciated.Yet its share of all Caribbean bound tourism is still very modest,a mere 30/o.An exceptionally high all the year round occupancy rate during the past decade kept the industry for all practical reasons from launching out further. The growth possibilities therefore should be considerable.Presently 710/o of Aruba's tourism originates from the USA with a high concentration in the New York area.This leaves a large segment of the American market unexplored.The experts are talked to have no doubt at all that the market potential allows for at least a 100o/o growth of the industry.An additional 2,500 rooms or doubling the present capacity would take care of both the unemployment and loss of foreign exchange income caused by the refinery's closure,they said. The investment needed for both upgrading the product and increasing the capacity to the envisaged level will require a total investment of at least Naf.500 million.With a view to Aruba's potential for further development in this respect, this should not be considered an excessively high amount.Investors in this sector,however consider the Caribbean in general as a high risk area.The largest hotel organization s,for example,prefer to offer their expertise in the form of management

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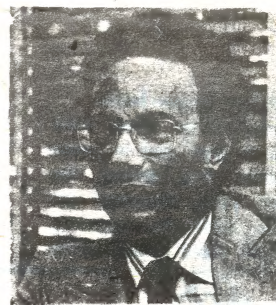




**ORANJESTAD**—The act for the founding of the N.V. Aruba Hotel and Development Corporation was signed last week at the office of notary Mr. Edgar Lacle. The corporation was founded on agreements between N.V. ARUVEN, Bredero International and Golden Tulip International. Representing ARUVEN were: Messrs. A. Muyale, N.E. Henriquez, and M. Kuiperi. Golden Tulip was represented by Messrs. E. Kruff and D. Nijhoff. Bredero International B.V. was represented by C. van Achtmaal and P. Westera. Also present were: Mr. H. Fingal of Aruba House in Holland, Mrs. R. Roosten and Mr. E. van Nispen, representatives of the Bank of Nova Scotia, financiers of the project.

## PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS DEAD AT 53

**BRIDGETOWN**—Prime Minister Tom Adams of Barbados died suddenly of a heart attack at his official residence Monday, Government officials announced. He was 53. Adams deputy, Bernard St. John, was named the new leader of the Caribbean island nation. Officials say Adams did not have a history of heart trouble. He had appeared strong and in good health during the recent gathering of eastern Caribbean leaders in Jamaica. Adams was one of the strongest supporters of U.S. President Reagan's intervention to oust the Cuba oriented government of Grenada in October 1983. An Oxford edu-



cated lawyer, Adams became Prime Minister in 1976 and was re-elected in 1981. Before taking up politics full-time, Adams worked as a freelance broadcast producer with the British Broadcasting Corporation between 1952-62. He is survived

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### Descendants of L.G. Smith attended **WOMAN'S CLUB OF ARUBA ANNIVERSARY BALL**

**SAN NICOLAS**—Dr. Gerald Smith and Mrs. Lucy Stewart, children of the late Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd G. Smith arrived in Aruba on Thursday March 7th, from Virginia, U.S.A. They were invited as guests of honour, to attend the 50th anniversary ball of the Woman's club of Aruba, which took place on Friday, March 8 at the Americana Hotel. The invitation was graciously

accepted to honour the memory of their mother, founder of the Woman's Club of Aruba, 50 years ago in Seroe Colorado.

They were received by the president of the club, Mrs. Raisa Wilson, one of the longest standing members of the club and friend of Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Laura Goley and Mrs. Linda Schnog, organiser of the event.

**SAN NICOLAS**—Sunday, March 17th, the St. Vincent de Paula Society is having their annual retreat at the Theresia Center in San starting at 9:00 a.m. and

ending at 3:00 p.m. with a Holy mass. Speaker will be Father Berlage. Let us sing and pray to God during this lenten season, especially in these difficult times. Registration fee is

f.5.- per person. Edwina Janga telephone 46151 or Mrs. Lidia Arrindell telephone 46561. Norma Chittick (Secretary)

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# ARUBA GETS HIMNO Y BANDERA PLAZA

ORANJESTAD— On September 26, 1984, the "Himno y Bandera" commission sent a letter to the Aruba government suggesting that the parking lot behind the cas di Cultura be named "Plaza Himno y Bandera". Recently the commission received a reply from the government in accordance with its suggestion, stating that the area will henceforth be called "Plaza Himno y Bandera". This year the "Himno y Ban-

dera" day will be celebrated for the third time. On Monday, March 18, at 4 p.m. the celebration will get underway with music by the "Triple S" band, followed by a cultural manifestation which will be televised live by TeleAruba. The commission requests all merchants to decorate their showcases with the national colors. The hotels have also been requested to hoist the Aruban flag in observance of the national holiday.



ORANJESTAD—The education Evaluation Commission delivered a final report to the Deputy of Education, Miss Grace Bareño. The president of the commission, Mr. F. Schoop made the delivery in the presence of the General Advisor to the Executive Council, Mr. Betico Croes, expert C. Baarnhoorn, government representatives G. H. Koolman and C. Roose and the director of the department of central education Mr. R. Harms.

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## GUADELOUPE PARALYZED BY TRANSPORT STRIKE

POINTAPITRE— A strike by transportation Workers and airline personnel paralyzed traffic and delayed flights from the French dependency of Guadeloupe earlier this week. It was also reported that an unknown gunman

fired on the female president of the assembly of Guadeloupe, Lucette Michaux Chevry, considered to be responsible for the hike in the price in gasoline, against which the workers are protesting. Police said that Michaux Chevry

founder of the Party for Guadeloupe was unharmed and that nobody has claimed responsibility for the shooting. For two consecutive days the drivers of trucks, buses and taxis protested against the increase of the price of gasoline, blocking main roads, including the Gabarre bridge which connects the twin islands of Guadeloupe, Basse Terre and Grand Terre. Hundreds of cars were abandoned on the blocked roads practically paralyzing all vehicular traffic. A simultaneous strike at the Raizet International Airport by Air France employees demanding better working conditions added to the headache of tourists. Many passengers leaving Guadeloupe at the height of its tourist season had to carry their luggage to the plane.

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# AFTER DRUG ARREST IN MIAMI, ISLAND LEADER ASKED TO RESIGN

**SOUTH CAICOS, Turks and Caicos Islands** — A top official of this Caribbean British colony files to Miami today to ask jailed Chief Minister Norman Saunders to resign or step aside temporarily.

Deputy Chief Minister Nathaniel "Bops" Frances says the first priority is to maintain orderly government on this tiny cluster of 37 islands about 600 miles southeast of Florida.

Resentment and embarrassment have reigned here since last Tuesday when the popular Saunders, 41, and two other local officials were arrested in Miami and charged with plotting to protect drug traffickers using the islands as a base.

"Everybody's taking hell here," said taxi driver Edward Swann.

But most residents of this tight-knit community of 8,000 are reluctant to criticize their own. Some told U.S. reporters that they're "not welcome."

Fishing has become the islands' primary source of income since the once-flourishing salt industry went bust in 1970. Tourism is growing, but few are wealthy here.

"Now things are rough and the arrest will really hurt the islands," said Louis Cox, 50, a businessman who lost an election to Saunders last year.

With no income or corporate taxes, the islands are a tax haven for about 4,000 foreign companies, many American. Secret accounts are said to be



# TOURIST LOST IN ST. EUSTATIUS

**ORANJESTAD**— A 49 year old American tourist who arrived on the island on March 7, and asked to be taken to the quill has not been seen since. The missing man took a taxi on arrival from St. Maarten and told the driver that he wanted to climb to the top of the extinct volcano. He told the taxi driver to return for him about 12 noon, but when the driver returned he did not show up. After returning to the area several times the driver reported the incident to the police. That same evening a thorough search of the bottom and sides of the crater was made, but without results. Relatives of the

missing man came over from St. Maarten and hired a helicopter to search the area from the air, but up to this writing no tra-

ce of the man was found. The family has offered to pay 1000 dolares reward to the person who finds the man.

used to launder drug money.

Many islanders believe Saunders, being held on \$2 million bail, was "set up" by U.S. and British authorities.

He was videotaped accepting a \$20,000 from an agent.

Saunders is in jail in Miami on \$2 million bail, the other two on \$1 million each.

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**CONT. FROM PAGE 5**

contracts rather than in real estate and construction. For the same reason banks are reluctant to provide large loans. This applies in particular to Aruba as there is a widespread unfamiliarity with

the concept of status aparte. The linkage of Status aparte to independence in 1996 is no doubt the most scary element as far as potential investors are concerned. For that reason many Aruban bu-

nessmen feel that the 1996 provision, to which Aruba only agreed in order to obtain its long coveted direct links to The Hague, should be eliminated from the Round Table agreement. In addition they hope that Holland will be willing to provide substantial loans and guarantees. If so, banks and foreign investment may step in more easily.

To promote a better investment climate some drastic changes in the local government's attitude and regulations are necessary as well. The authorities, AR was told, still regard private enterprise with a certain measure of suspicion. This far from helpful and rather outdated attitude too often causes unnecessary delays in handling of applications to start a new enterprise on the island. Some laws and regulations too seem to hinder rather than promote attracting new investment. The infamous dismissal law is a point in question. But also the long and often tedious procedure of acquiring work permits for foreign employees even where the required expertise is not available on the island, does not exactly help. The suggestion made by one Aruban businessman that a person or company investing in a new enterprise should have an automatic right to employ a minimum of 50/o of its

employees from abroad seems worth considering. A measure of that kind would certainly create a more attractive climate. Government

The most critical precondition for rebuilding the island's economy concerns the Aruban government itself. The closure of Lago implies such a loss of income that a severe cutting of costs has become both urgent and unavoidable. This will be no easy matter. Revenues from the oil industry have been more than generous during the past years. Instead of reserving at least part of this windfall the government went on a spending spree. For motives of political patronage the civil services were overstaffed while salaries - particularly in the lower and middle echelons - rose to a level 30-40/o higher than in the private sector. Secondary labor conditions too are much better. The implication is that the government will have to cut wages considerably and lay-off a substantial number of people. The businessmen AR talked to were of the opinion that these measures will be taken for the simple reason that the government has no other option. They expect and even hope that Holland in the case it is willing to come to the rescue of Aruba will do so on very strict conditions in this respect. This, they argued, would make it easier for the Aruban politicians to act in accordance with the unpleasant facts. Whether this trimming down of the government will also lead to better management and higher produc-

tion of the civil services, was seen as a very open question.

The prevailing system of patronage for the sake of securing votes is generally seen as an unsurmountable obstacle to such development. This rather negative judgement on the government's role with regard to the island economy in general does not hold much promise for the future. Analyzing the past developments, everyone AR talked to agreed that the government should in fact could have foreseen the closure of Lago. Although warned both by Lago and outside experts on many occasions during the past 9 years that development might jeopardize the refinery's existence no measures whatsoever were taken at any time. Short-time political goals were considered more important. One of the underlying reasons for Aruba's present crisis is no doubt the fact that everything on the island, including the economy, has been dominated by politics for at least a decade. Politics, it should be realized, of a very narrow minded and petty character. As few expect this to change in the foreseeable future, most members of the business community hope for government to be heavily reduced in every aspect as a result of the crisis.

Democracy  
Suggestions that the ill functioning of democracy on Aruba might jeopardize its chances of acquiring sufficient aid from Holland, were not shared by those AR interview.

Cont. on page 10

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### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Most people did, however agree that serious flaws exist. In particular the role of Mr. Beticro Croes, leader of the island's leading party, was seen as undermining the democratic system. Mr. Croes holds the position of adviser to the island governments in the Netherlands Antilles. Even though in fact he is running the island he cannot be called upon by the island's parliament to give account of his policies. Although formally not unconstitutional this practice does not exactly serve the democratic cause. In this connection it was pointed out that the Antilles because of their closeness to the American continent are well acquainted with the presidential model. This may explain Aruba's acceptance of Mr. Croes's position. Another explanation for his rather roundabout way of being involved in governing the island may be that he is a very skillful politician but not a very good administrator.

For that same reason it is doubted by some that he will indeed agree to be Aruba's first prime Minister when status aparte has been realized, although he has hinted in that direction on several occasions. A more serious threat to the democratic system, it was felt, is the rather bad shape of administrative affairs in general. Although the island government budgets have been introduced on time the backlog in financial accounting has made it impossible for the island parliament to exercise its controlling function properly. A development which is not exactly appreciated by the dutch government. Nevertheless few were of the opinion that this would prompt the Dutch to withhold the aid needed to overcome the impending crisis. Status Aparte Discussing the economic implications of the upcoming status aparte, it was generally felt that A-

ruba will in the end be better off going it alone. This in sharp contrast with a recent IMF report, which suggests that a broad economic basis i.e. a staying together of the six Antillean islands, would be preferable. But in Aruba's business circles, many are convinced that leaving the Antillean constellation is economically speaking the wiser. Most of them are very pessimistic about Curacao's future viability and fear that Aruba would suffer further economic decline when staying in the Antilles. For this reason it was argued that status aparte should be enacted if by any means possible on the agreed date of January 1, 1986

All the energy now devoted to prepare for that status, can be used for building up the economy. Business circles in Aruba are convinced that after status aparte is a fact, Curacao and Aruba will develop ways and means to co-operate to mutual benefits of the islands. Once more the conversation turned to the status aparte-independence package. There was general agreement that adhering to the 1996, date would be tolling the bell for the island. How far, on the other hand, the Arubans have removed themselves from thinking in terms of a united Antilles was made clear when a participant suggested that "each island should get the op-

tion for status aparte and from that point decide about future affiliation either with the other islands, Holland or a neighboring country however, business people in Aruba are convinced that each island should remain in the Kingdom of the Netherlands for at least another 25 years.

This is an option that should be open to each island individually. The above expressed confidence in the long-term viability of the island, is not the mood one finds in Aruba's streets. People feel highly insecure, which is caused both by anxiety about the economic developments of the moment and a lack of trust in the

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## ANOTHER ANONYMOUS PAMPHLET IN CIRCULATION

ORANJESTAD— Another anonymous pamphlet against the MEP party was being distributed this week all over the island. Like the first one, the pamphlet blasted the members of the Island Council and accused them of squandering 300 million guilders. The pamphlet asked if the fls. 300 000,000 is hidden in Switzerland, Colombia or Miami.

## CONT. FROM PAGE 10

ability of the politicians to reverse Aruba's downward trend. It should be observed that this applies to the ruling politicians as well as the opposition. In accordance it is estimated that ten of fifteen thousand Arubans will leave the island. Pensioners are expected to take up residence in Costa Rica, Spain or Holland. Many others may join their relatives already living in the Netherlands. Rumors of a substantial capital flight were not confirmed. Although a 20% emigration will inevitably cause some brain-drain, the Arubans interviewed do not expect this to be of too damaging a nature. Nor do they expect the feelings of anxiety to lead to eruptions of social seriousness unrest. There is, AR was assured, no organized left-ist movement on the island, which might try to take advantage of the present crisis.

Adding it all up the most negative picture evolving assuming the unlikely situation that nothing is done to foster strong economic growth is that of continued and even accelerating decline. If no investments of a significant nature can be attracted more and more people

will start to leave. With the outflow of know-how the quality of the tourism product will suffer, causing a decline in the number of visitors. This in turn will result in the closure of more shops and businesses. Government income will go down because of lower tax yields affecting the total quality of society. After five years the total population might be down to 30,000 (from 60,000) living on an average income close to the present minimum wage level, while the cost of living will have increased considerably. This may be the most negative scenario, it is also the most unlikely. Aruba's potential for tourism is of such a nature that one can hardly imagine investors to pass up the opportunities offered. The exceptionally positive attitude towards tourism among Arubans, coupled to the inevitable lowering of the wage level and of real estate prices, should make investing an interesting option. More so, Holland would agree to come to the island's rescue in the sense as indicated above.

The most positive scenario

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Cont. from front page

dent Yuri Andropov on February 9, 1984, and President of the Soviet Union on April 11. Mikhail Gorbachev, 54, the youngest member of the Politburo will succeed Chernenko as President and Politburo chief of the Soviet Union.



Konstantin Chernenko



Mikhail Gorbachev

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**COMMANDOS ...**  
Cont. from page 4

without a trace. It is believed that the majority of them are still in Palermo and surroundings, because there at least they can depend on the support of the organization and the "Omerta" the oath of si-

lance. It was thought that Greco had fled to Brazil but now there are strong indications that he might be still walking around in Palermo. Last year he was condemned in absentia to imprisonment for life.

Cont. from page 11

rio for Aruba therefore looks something like the following. The reputation of political stability restored by Holland's agreement to postpone all talk

about independence for at least two decades. As a result a considerable inflow of capital for the purpose of increasing the island's capacity for tou-

**Prime Minister ...**  
Cont. from page 6

by his wife, Genevieve and two sons. Adams was the son of Grantley Adams, first Prime Minister of the defunct "West Indies Federation", under which the West Indies islands were ruled between 1958 and 1962 under a common parliament.

rism. A consequent decline of unemployment not only because of new construction activities and more jobs being created by the tourism industry, but also tourism related business will increase. In the wake of this development it may be expected that free-zone activities will also pick-up. The government will decrease in size, but most people laid off will find employment in the private sector. The expected immigration of 15,000 Arubans will further help to alleviate the unemployment problem. After five years unemployment can be back at the approximately 10% level of the past while the income might also be somewhere near the 1984 level again.  
(Taken from the Antillean Review Magazine)

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